

APPARATUS METHOD FOR STRAIGHTENING

PROPELLER DRIVE SHAFTS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0030] An apparatus and method for straightening propeller drive shafts without the need for removing the shaft from the lower unit/drive assembly is disclosed. In an embodiment of the present invention, a mechanical linkage is provided that is configured to securely grip the propeller drive shaft and that is mechanically coupled to an extension module. The extension module may be a hydraulic ram that provides a linear force. The linkage is configured to receive the linear force from the extension module and transfer the linear force to the propeller drive shaft. Because the propeller drive shaft is securely fixed within the linkage and within the lower unit/drive assembly, the force applied to the propeller drive shaft is operative to bend the propeller drive shaft opposite of the existing bend in order to straighten it.